

West Dunbartonshire Council – Statement of Community-Based Provision for the ‘Period Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Act 2021’.

January 2022

Period Product Locator App
PickUpMyPeriod – Quick Response Code:



West Dunbartonshire

Multi Member Ward Map

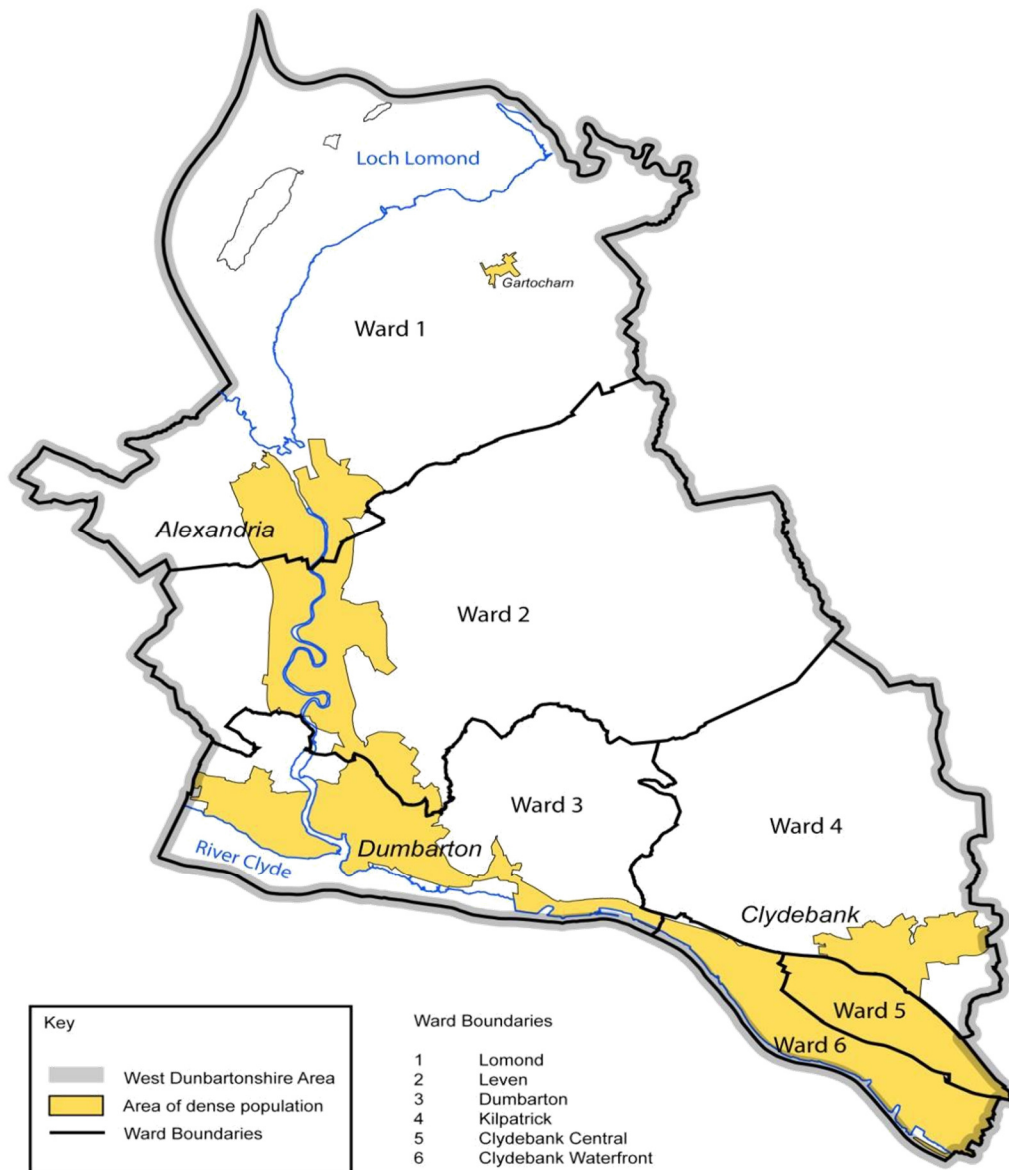


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1. Introduction

The Period Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Act 2021 received Royal Assent on 12th January 2021. The Act requires local authorities to ensure period products (like pads and tampons) can easily be picked up free of charge for anyone who needs to use them.

Period products must be reasonably easy to obtain and provided in a way that respects the dignity of those obtaining the products. In addition, there must be a reasonable choice of different products available.

Each responsible body must, as soon as reasonably practicable, prepare a written statement describing the plans for provision. The statement must be prepared in consultation with relevant individuals, groups and organisations.

The consultation must seek information to inform decisions about:

- The way products may be made available;
- The types of products required;
- The premises where the products will be available;
- The location of products in those premises.

This is the West Dunbartonshire Council Statement of Community-Based Provision.

On the basis of funding being made available by the Scottish Government:

‘We will strive to ensure that everyone in West Dunbartonshire who has a period will have convenient access to appropriate products free of charge, as and when they are required’.

We will do this by:

- consulting with those people in our communities and schools who will require the products, this is to determine the breadth of product requirement;
- engaging with organisations working with groups and individuals including those with equalities issues to ensure the broadest range of access is achieved;
- working with strategic partners in the Community Planning West Dunbartonshire (CPWD) Partnership to identify premises and distribution methods for providing access in a way that maintains the dignity of those seeking access to period products;
- liaising with community groups to identify where products are placed and distribution methods to ensure we maintain the dignity of those seeking access to period products;
- reviewing the levels of demand and supply to establish the strongest possible match between the two;
- providing information about what period products are available, where and how they can be obtained.

This document will be published on West Dunbartonshire Council’s web page and can be obtained at:

<https://www.west-dunbarton.gov.uk/community/period-positive/>

2. Consultation

Method

Before preparing a statement we must consult those groups of people identified in the Scottish Government Guidance about period products, and any other organisation or individuals we think are appropriate.

Who we had to consult:

- People that use period products who live or are otherwise likely to be present in the West Dunbartonshire area;
- People who may want to collect period products on behalf of product users;
- People facing additional barriers to access.

What we had to ask about:

- Ways in which people could obtain period products free of charge;
- dignity and ease of access;
- the required choice of period products that should be available.

In order to reach as many people who live or work in West Dunbartonshire the quickest and most effective tool we had available was an on-line 'Survey Monkey' and focused efforts on specific groups. This included:

- Dennystoun Forge residents (Gypsy Travellers).
- Blue Triangle (Homeless people).
- Work Connect (Adults in recovery, mental ill health, specific learning disabilities and acquired brain injuries).
- Richmond Fellowship (Adult Mental Health Support).
- Women's Aid (Women experiencing Domestic Abuse).
- Carers of West Dunbartonshire (Adult Carers).
- Isaro Community Initiative (Cohesion, Integration and mutual cultural understanding).
- Cornerstone (Adults with learning disabilities).
- The Richmond Fellowship (Adult Mental Health support).
- Stepping Stones (Mental Health service for over 16s).
- Enable (Work with people with additional support needs).
- Addictions Services (Adults with Addictions).
- Alternatives (Community Based Drug Project).

The Survey

The on-line survey consisted of eleven questions and was carried out between September and November 2021 and a wide range of people took part. This included men; transgender people; family members and people who use the products themselves. Some identified as being on a low income, single parents, carers or people with a disability and people living in remote locations.

We received 169 responses with further input from targeted organisations in December 2021. The consultation findings are contained in an associated document:

'Period Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Act 2021: West Dunbartonshire Council Consultation Report: December 2021. The document can be found here:

<https://www.west-dunbarton.gov.uk/community/period-positive/>

Consultation Key Messages

Existing Provision

Questions one to six focused on the existing provision. **Questions 1:** (What area of West Dunbartonshire do you live in?) and **Question 2** (are you aware of the service) each secured 169 responses and there were 57 responses for **Question 3** about access locations:

- The responses were fairly evenly spread geographically across West Dunbartonshire: Alexandria (34%), Clydebank (33%) and Dumbarton (22.5%).
- There was a small percentage (10.5%) of respondents from out with the area; these may be from staff/employees working in West Dunbartonshire.
- The majority of respondents (62%) already knew about the existing service.
- Respondents had obtained products in various venues however the majority (51%) had used the online home delivery link.
- That was closely followed by accessing products from Council Buildings.
- Others used community venues, doctor's surgeries, foodbanks and the supermarket.

Question 4 focussed on the types of product with **Question 5** asking about who they obtained the products for. **Question 6** asked about service user experience in obtaining products.

Respondents had accessed a range of products. The main products accessed were:

- Period pads (95%) followed by tampons (85%).
- Reusable products such as menstrual cups were less popular (63%). Analysis suggest this was because they had only recently become available online.

The majority of people obtained the products for their own use or on behalf of a family member.

The majority of those surveyed (55%) felt that the service was great, dignified, discreet and easy to access.

Of the remainder:

- 37% of those surveyed thought the service was either good or OK.
- 1% of respondents were OK about the service, but felt embarrassed.
- 1% would not use the service.

Summary of Existing Provision

The service is available throughout West Dunbartonshire and accessibility has been reinforced through the introduction of an on-line service. There is a range of products available, all of which have been used by the majority of respondents.

The products were obtained for personal or family use and accessibility was welcomed. A substantial majority felt the current service was great because it was dignified, discreet and easy to use.

As such, it may be concluded, the existing arrangements have established a firm foundation for the development of the service and provision of the products.

Future Provision

The September – November consultation survey continued with questions designed to reflect on the future demand and provision.

Question 7 sought information about the types of products required and **Question 8** asked about the preferred method and locations for obtaining products. **Question 9** asked about site specific access for obtaining products.

Respondents were asked to select more than one product as appropriate to their views. We received 102 responses about the types of products.

- The provision of pads was favoured by 95% of the respondents with 85% also saying tampons would be appropriate.
- A significant number (63%) also considered it appropriate to provide re-usable menstrual cups.
- 19% suggested 'other' products including reusable pads and period pads. It was suggested that the provision of wipes and products for those experiencing heavier periods would be welcome.

When asked about locations and methods for obtaining products:

- The majority (72%) chose on-line/postal service and 67% included access from a chemist.
- Community venues (56%) and doctor's office (53%) were also considered appropriate.
- While less favoured a significant minority favoured collection from foodbanks (46%), council offices (42%) and local shops (40%). Other locations included dental surgeries.

Question 10 sought information on the barriers to access. A number of respondents suggested the main barrier would be not knowing where to obtain the products (71.5%). While 41% thought not knowing the amount they could take at any one time would be an impediment.

- 28% thought embarrassment would be a factor;
- 25% suggested inability to get to shops would be a determinant.

A small minority (7%) suggested limited access to on-line methods (no internet/phone/computer) would be a factor.

The final question sought any further information. This provided the opportunity for one respondent to criticise the approach. However the majority of respondents welcomed the approach and suggested that:

- A broader range of products should be made available;
- Products should be available in a greater number of venues;
- There should be greater awareness of the availability of products; and
- Products should be 'plastic free' and bio-gradable to prevent beaches being littered by products flushed through the sewage system.

Summary of Existing Provision

Respondents, for the most part, supported the approach and are in favour of on-line and broader community access. A greater range of products was sought and some focus should be placed on raising awareness of the product availability.

3. Provision Plan

Future provision and methods of communication and access have been determined by our experience in providing products to date and project activities and further informed by the issues emerging from our consultation.

Communications

In order to respond to the view that we should raise awareness of the service we will market the service more widely by work with the Corporate Communications team to further increase awareness by continuing promotion of the service to the wider community.

This will include promotion in local press, West Dunbartonshire Council website, employee intranet and Council social media channels.

In addition to the distribution of press releases the team will promote the service by providing information and links to the service on its social media platforms, including:

- West Dunbartonshire Council web site (I have a link for this);
- West Dunbartonshire Council Intranet;
- WDC Facebook (and WDC twitter) - <https://www.facebook.com/WDCouncil/>

Working 4U will take the lead in developing the community-based provision and will promote the service through the range of Community Planning Partnership and associated networks, including:

- Community Planning Partnership Delivery Improvement Groups with representation from health and social care organisations.
- Youth Alliance – organisations delivering youth work services.
- Adult Learning Partnership – organisations supporting adult learning and literacies.
- Local Employability Partnership – organisations delivering support for people seeking employment and training opportunities.
- Information and Advice Partnership – organisations delivering welfare/debt and benefits information.
- Local Housing Partnership – local housing organisations.

Working 4U, in addition to providing content for local newsletter and communications such as Housing news, will provide content for:

- Employability Service Virtual Hub Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/WDVirtualCommunityHub/>
- Adult Learning Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/Working4UAdultLearning/>
- Working4U twitter - @Working4U updates (quarterly)

Working 4U staff will liaise with 'Hey Girls', the organisation supplying the products to promote provision. Actions will include the distribution of posters and information stands to be located in community venues providing access to products.

Available Products

Drawing on experience and consultation we will provide a range of products, including:

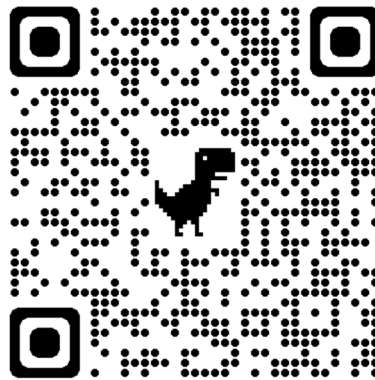
- Disposable pads and tampons – these will be available in community venues;
- re-usable products, including period pants, menstrual cups and period pads will be available on-line.

Methods for Obtaining Products

Products will be available within local premises. This includes community venues, council offices and local shops and supermarkets. The most up to date list of venues is provided in **Appendix 1**. This list will be reviewed on a bi annual basis and will be the source of information that is included in the 'Quick Response' (QR) Locator App.

The PickUpMyPeriod Locator App contains information on the availability of products in West Dunbartonshire. This can be accessed by taking a photograph of the code on your smartphone. This will open the Hey Girls information page and service users will be guided on how to obtain the relevant information.

The QR code is:



In addition to direct access in the identified locations access can also be obtained on-line. To place your order copy this link into your smartphone/laptop search or click on this link–

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Z7RZLRY>

On-line orders will be delivered directly from the supplier (Hey Girls).

Those accessing the products can order or take as many or as few of the products as required.

Service Review

Staff at Working 4U will review service provision and will update the service on the basis of continuation of Scottish Government Funding and fluctuation of demands in venues and products.

The team will continue to connect and discuss product provision with individuals and organisations supporting people identified within Equalities legislation. They will also review and renew the service consultation annually and use this to inform future provision.

Product Locations and Access Points

The current venues where products can be obtained are listed below. Any changes to locations and availability will be accessed on our App.

Appendix 1: Access Points for Period Products in West Dunbartonshire

Table 1: Product Availability in Clydebank Central

| Multi Member Ward | Premises Location | Address | Postcode | Types of Product | Location in Premises |
|-------------------|--------------------------|---|----------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Clydebank Central | Centre 81 | 2 Braes Ave, Clydebank | G81 3DP | Disposable Pads/Tampons | Toilets |
| Clydebank Central | Clydebank Health Centre | Kilbowie Road, Clydebank | G81 2TQ | Disposable Pads/Tampons | Public Areas |
| Clydebank Central | Clydebank Hub | 405 Kilbowie Road, Clydebank | G81 2TX | Disposable Pads/Tampons | Toilets |
| Clydebank Central | Dalmuir Community Centre | Duntocher Road, Dalmuir | G81 3QX | Disposable Pads/Tampons | Toilets |
| Clydebank Central | Debra Charity Shop | Clyde shopping centre, 4 Britannia Way, Clydebank | G81 2RZ | Disposable Pads/Tampons | At Till point |
| Clydebank Central | Y sortit | 5 West Thomson St, Clydebank | G81 3EA | Disposable Pads/Tampons | Toilets |

Table 2: Product Availability in Clydebank Waterfront

| Multi Member Ward | Premises Location | Address | Postcode | Types of Product | Location in Premises |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|--|----------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Clydebank Waterfront | Citizens Advice Bureau Clydebank | Social Economy Centre, 63 Kilbowie Road, Clydebank | G81 1BL | Disposable Pads/Tampons | Toilets |
| Clydebank Waterfront | Clydebank Independent Resource Centre | 627 Dumbarton Road, Clydebank | G81 4ET | Disposable Pads/Tampons | Toilets |
| Clydebank Waterfront | Clydebank Town Centre Office | 10 Sylvania Way South, Clydebank | G81 1EA | Disposable Pads/Tampons | Toilets |

| Multi Member Ward | Premises Location | Address | Postcode | Types of Product | Location in Premises |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|---|-----------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Clydebank Waterfront | Clydebank Town Hall | 5 Hall Street, Clydebank | G81 1UB | Disposable Pads/Tampons | Toilets |
| Clydebank Waterfront | Dalmuir Library | 2 Lennox Place, Dalmuir | G81 4LX | Disposable Pads/Tampons | Toilets |
| Clydebank Waterfront | WD Addiction Team Clydebank | 120 Dumbarton Road, Clydebank | G81 1UG | Disposable Pads/Tampons | Toilets |
| Clydebank Waterfront | WDC Aurora House | 3 Aurora Avenue, Queens Quay, Clydebank | G81 1BF | Disposable Pads/Tampons | All Toilets/Public Reception are |

Table 3: Product Availability in Dumbarton

| Multi Member Ward | Premises Location | Address | Postcode | Types of Product | Location in Premises |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|--|-----------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Dumbarton | Benvie Centre | 50 Strathleven Place, Dumbarton | G82 1BA | Disposable Pads/Tampons | Toilets |
| Dumbarton | Citizens Advice Bureau Dumbarton | Bridgend House, 179 High Street, Dumbarton | G82 1NW | Disposable Pads/Tampons | Toilets |
| Dumbarton | Concord Centre | Town Centre, Dumbarton | G82 1LJ | Disposable Pads/Tampons | Toilets |
| Dumbarton | Cornerstone | Carman Centre, 175 Main Street Renton | G82 4PF | Disposable Pads/Tampons | Toilets |
| Dumbarton | Cutty Sark Centre | 58 Howatshaws Road, Dumbarton | G82 3DR | Disposable Pads/Tampons | Toilets |
| Dumbarton | Dumbarton Health Centre | Station Road, Dumbarton | G82 1PW | Disposable Pads/Tampons | General Reception Area |
| Dumbarton | Dumbarton Library | Strathleven Place, Dumbarton | G82 1BD | Disposable Pads/Tampons | Toilets |
| Dumbarton | Family Nurse Partnership Team F | Hartfield Clinic, Latta Street, Dumbarton | G82 2DS | Disposable Pads/Tampons | Toilets |

| Multi Member Ward | Premises Location | Address | Postcode | Types of Product | Location in Premises |
|-------------------|---|---|----------|-------------------------|--|
| Dumbarton | Food4Thought | Unit 14A, Artizan Shopping Centre, Dumbarton | G82 1LL | Disposable Pads/Tampons | Toilets |
| Dumbarton | Mackie Pharmacy Dumbarton | 8 High St, Dumbarton | G82 1LL | Disposable Pads/Tampons | Shop Floor (Shelf) |
| Dumbarton | Meadow Centre | Meadow Road, Dumbarton | G82 2AA | Disposable Pads/Tampons | Toilets |
| Dumbarton | Morrisons | 55 Glasgow Road, Dumbarton | G82 1QZ | Disposable Pads/Tampons | All Toilets Or ask for "Sandy" at customer services |
| Dumbarton | WD Addiction Team Dumbarton | Dumbarton Joint Hospital, Cardross road, Dumbarton | G82 5JA | Disposable Pads/Tampons | Toilets |
| Dumbarton | WDC Bridge Street Social Work/Public | 6-14 Bridge Street, Dumbarton | G82 1NT | Disposable Pads/Tampons | Toilets Staff Supply customers |
| Dumbarton | WDC Bridge Street Staff/Premises | 6-14 Bridge Street, Dumbarton | G82 1NT | Disposable Pads/Tampons | All Toilets |
| Dumbarton | WDC Church Street | 16 Church St, Dumbarton | G82 1QL | Disposable Pads/Tampons | All Toilets |
| Dumbarton | West Dunbartonshire Community Foodshare | Unit 21 Levenvalley Enterprise Centre, Castlehill Road, Dumbarton | G82 5BN | Disposable Pads/Tampons | No public access Phone ordering only |

Table 4: Product Availability in Kilpatrick

| Multi Member Ward | Premises Location | Address | Postcode | Types of Product | Location in Premises |
|-------------------|-------------------|---|----------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Kilpatrick | Faifley Library | Edinbarnet Campus, Craigpark Street, Faifley, Clydebank | G81 5BS | Disposable Pads/Tampons | Toilets |

| | | | | | |
|------------|----------------------------|--|---------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Kilpatrick | Glenhead Centre | Duntiglennan Road, Duntocher | G81 6HF | Disposable Pads/Tampons | Toilets |
| Kilpatrick | Old Kilpatrick Foodparcels | Unit 5, Nu Skope Industrial Estate, Station Road, Old Kilpatrick | G60 5LP | Disposable Pads/Tampons | Pantry Shop By phone or online |
| Kilpatrick | Skypoint Centre | 96b Lennox Drive, Faifley, Clydebank | G81 5JY | Disposable Pads/Tampons | Toilets |

Table 5: Product Availability in Leven

| Multi Member Ward | Premises Location | Address | Postcode | Types of Product | Location in Premises |
|--------------------------|---|--|-----------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Leven | Acorn Centre | Vale of Leven Hospital, Main Street, Alexandria. | G83 0UA | Disposable Pads/Tampons | Toilets |
| Leven | Alexandria Community Centre | Main Street, Alexandria. | G83 0NU | Disposable Pads/Tampons | Toilets |
| Leven | Alexandria Library | Gilmour Street, Alexandria. | G83 0DA | Disposable Pads/Tampons | Toilets |
| Leven | Citizens Advice Bureau Alexandria | 77 Bank Street, Alexandria. | G83 0LZ | Disposable Pads/Tampons | Toilets |
| Leven | Gordons Chemists | 19 Mitchell Way | G83 0LW | Disposable Pads/Tampons | Shop Floor |
| Leven | The Tell Organisation Ltd. | Tell House, 8/4 Bankend Road, and Dumbarton. | G82 2RT | Disposable Pads/Tampons | Toilets |
| Leven | Tullochan | 9-11 Poplar Road, Dumbarton | G82 2RD | Disposable Pads/Tampons | Toilets |
| Leven | Vale of Leven Autism and Aspergers Forum (VOLAAF) | West of Scotland Autism and Aspergers Centre, Station Street, Renton | G82 4NB | Disposable Pads/Tampons | Toilets |

Table 6: Product Availability in Lomond

| Multi Member Ward | Premises Location | Address | Postcode | Types of Product | Location in Premises |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|--|-----------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Lomond | Haldane Youth | Annexe Building, c/o Jamestown Primary School, Main Street, Jamestown, Balloch | G83 8PN | Disposable Pads/Tampons | Toilets |
| Lomond | Vale Centre for Health | Main Street, Alexandria | G83 0UA | Disposable Pads/Tampons | Reception Areas |
| Lomond | Vale of Leven Swimming Pool | Main Street, Alexandria | G83 0UE | Disposable Pads/Tampons | Toilets |

Appendix 2: Consultation Questions

1. What area of West Dunbartonshire do you live in?
2. Are you aware of our current community provision of free period products in West Dunbartonshire?
3. If you answered yes to Question 2, please tell us more about how you accessed these free period products.
4. What free period products have you used?
5. Who do you need the free period products for?
6. Based on your experience please rate the extent that you felt comfortable accessing the products. Was your dignity considered or did you have to ask for them?
7. What free period products do you think should be available in your community?
8. Where do you think will be the best place to get the free period products from?
9. Where in the above venues would you be happy to see free products?
10. What, if anything, would stop you from accessing these products?
11. In order to make sure we are asking a broad section of the community their views can you tell us a bit more about yourself?
12. Please tell us anything else if you have anything else to say that would help us to improve this service.